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**People for Animal Welfare in El Dorado County**

*A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated To Saving And Improving The Lives  
Of Companion Animals In Our Community*

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May 17, 2010

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY

Norma Santiago, Supervisor  
El Dorado County  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, California 95667

Dear Supervisor Santiago,

Our April 14, 2010 letter indicated PAWED's support for locating the new animal shelter at the Barnett Business Park site in Shingle Springs. We have just received new information regarding the very considerable community opposition to the Business Park site by surrounding community residents and by the Shilling Robotics business that currently occupies this building. This new information has caused us to re-evaluate our position and PAWED, therefore, has decided to withdraw our support of this site. We cannot, in all good conscience, support a proposal that already has so much community opposition . . .

In the past five years, PAWED has repeatedly attended Board meetings and advocated for the building of the much needed new animal shelter for the Western Slope. We have completely supported the Board's efforts to do so and have testified regarding the attached guiding principles that we feel the Board should consider in it's decision making. We have also seen the excessive cost to the county and negative impact on staff and operations by trying to manage animal services in several different temporary sites because a new shelter has not been built. We were hopeful and pleased when the Board finally committed to the purchase of property at the "Y" in 2006 and architectural plans were subsequently developed.

PAWED continues to support the building of a new animal shelter on the property at the "Y" that was purchased by the county for this purpose, and now believe that it is the only acceptable option currently under consideration. It is an important investment in our community for the next 20-30 years and a timely investment during a favorable construction cost climate. We once again urge the Board's immediate action to move forward on this long overdue and much needed animal shelter project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlene Welty".

Charlene Welty  
President

## PAWED'S RECOMMENDED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ANIMAL SHELTER DECISION

1. **Location**—this is the single most important factor for an animal shelter according to the Humane Society of the United States. If the shelter is not easily accessible to the public, fewer stray pets will be reclaimed by their owners and fewer animals will be adopted resulting in significantly more healthy, adoptable animals being needlessly euthanized.
2. **Safety/Security**: A central location increases the safety and security of the staff and animals, and facilitates the temporary housing of displaced family pets during a disaster.
3. **Response Time**: Animal Services officers respond daily to animal emergencies, such as stray animals and dangerous dogs running loose, injured animals and abandoned animals. They also respond to residents' complaints regarding barking dogs, and reports of animal abuse and neglect. A central, accessible location helps Animal Services staff respond rapidly with the least travel time and costs.
4. **Volunteer Assistance**: the shelter currently has the support of many PAWED and shelter volunteers to assist staff in caring for and finding homes for shelter animals. Volunteers work at the shelter to exercise, train, socialize and groom dogs and cats, and also provide foster care. Volunteers also frequently donate needed shelter supplies and equipment and assist in site maintenance and repair. They are vital in the operation of any good animal shelter, and a central, accessible location helps retain and attract volunteers.
5. **Public Image and Community Resource**: It is important that the animal shelter has a positive image as a valuable and needed community resource and service. It should be the first place county residents think of going to adopt a pet and for help on animal issues and problems. The county must chose a location and design for the shelter that promotes a positive community response.